

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1. A method in a data processing system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, said primary password being required prior to said client computer system being accessible by a user, said client computer system being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a network, said method comprising the steps of:

prior to said client computer system completing a boot process:

prompting a user to enter said primary password;
and

providing an interrogative password method in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said primary password being recoverable from said server computer system by said client computer system utilizing said interrogative password method prior to said client computer system completing said boot process.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing said interrogative password method including an question and correct answer pair.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative method.

1 4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 displaying said question included within said
4 interrogative method utilizing said client computer system
5 in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;
6 and

7 prompting a user to enter an answer to said question,
8 wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully
9 complete said interrogative method.

1 5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 establishing a unique client identifier; and

4 storing said question and said correct answer together
5 with said unique client identifier in said server computer
6 system.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 transmitting a request for said question utilizing said
4 client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of
5 said primary password, said request including said unique
6 client identifier; and

7 transmitting said question utilizing said server
8 computer system in response to a receipt of said request.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 transmitting a proposed answer to said question
4 utilizing said client computer system;

5 determining whether said proposed answer is said
6 correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

1 8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the
2 step of prior to executing said interrogative password
3 method, permitting a user to initially supply said question
4 and correct answer pair.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the
2 step of prohibiting access to said client computer system by
3 prohibiting transmission of said primary password in
4 response to said proposed answer being unequal to said
5 correct answer.

1 10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the
2 step of completing said boot process in response to said
3 client computer system receiving said primary password from
4 said server computer system.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of encrypting transmissions between said client
3 computer system and said server computer system utilizing an
4 encryption key pair method.

1 12. A data processing system for remotely recovering a
2 client computer system's primary password, said primary
3 password being required prior to said client computer system
4 being accessible by a user, said client computer system
5 being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a
6 network, comprising:

7 prior to said client computer system completing a boot
8 process:

9 means for prompting a user to enter said primary
10 password; and

11 means for providing an interrogative password
12 method in response to an incorrect entry of said
13 primary password, said primary password being
14 recoverable from said server computer system by said
15 client computer system utilizing said interrogative
16 password method prior to said client computer system
17 completing said boot process.

18 13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising
19 means for providing said interrogative password method
20 including an question and correct answer pair.

21 14. The system according to claim 13, further comprising
22 means for recovering said primary password from said server
23 computer system in response to a successful completion of
24 said interrogative method.

1 15. The system according to claim 14, further comprising:

2 means for displaying said question included within said
3 interrogative method utilizing said client computer system
4 in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;
5 and

6 means for prompting a user to enter an answer to said
7 question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will
8 successfully complete said interrogative method.

1 16. The system according to claim 15, further comprising:

2 means for establishing a unique client identifier; and

3 means for storing said question and said correct answer
4 together with said unique client identifier in said server
5 computer system.

1 17. The system according to claim 16, further comprising:

2 means for transmitting a request for said question
3 utilizing said client computer system in response to an
4 incorrect entry of said primary password, said request
5 including said unique client identifier; and

6 means for transmitting said question utilizing said
7 server computer system in response to a receipt of said
8 request.

1 18. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

2 means for transmitting a proposed answer to said
3 question utilizing said client computer system;

4 means for determining whether said proposed answer is
5 said correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

1 19. The system according to claim 18, further comprising
2 means for prior to executing said interrogative password
3 method, permitting a user to initially supply said question
4 and correct answer pair.

1 20. The system according to claim 19, further comprising
2 means for prohibiting access to said client computer system
3 by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in
4 response to said proposed answer being unequal to said
5 correct answer.

1 21. The system according to claim 20, further comprising
2 means for completing said boot process in response to said
3 client computer system receiving said primary password from
4 said server computer system.

1 22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising
2 means for encrypting transmissions between said client
3 computer system and said server computer system utilizing an
4 encryption key pair method.

1 23. A data processing system for remotely recovering a
2 client computer system's primary password, said primary
3 password being required prior to said client computer system
4 being accessible by a user, said client computer system
5 being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a
6 network, comprising:

7 means prior to said client computer system completing a
8 boot process, for prompting a user to enter said primary
9 password;

10 means prior to said client computer system completing a
11 boot process, for providing an interrogative password method
12 including an question and correct answer pair in response to
13 an incorrect entry of said primary password, said primary
14 password being recoverable from said server computer system
15 by said client computer system utilizing said interrogative
16 password method prior to said client computer system
17 completing said boot process;

18 means for recovering said primary password from said
19 server computer system in response to a successful
20 completion of said interrogative method.

21 means for displaying said question included within said
22 interrogative method utilizing said client computer system
23 in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;

24 means for prompting a user to enter an answer to said
25 question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will
26 successfully complete said interrogative method;

27 means for establishing a unique client identifier;

28 means for storing said question and said correct answer
29 together with said unique client identifier in said server
30 computer system;

31 means for transmitting a request for said question
32 utilizing said client computer system in response to an
33 incorrect entry of said primary password, said request
34 including said unique client identifier;

35 means for transmitting said question utilizing said
36 server computer system in response to a receipt of said
37 request;

38 means for transmitting a proposed answer to said
39 question utilizing said client computer system;

40 means for determining whether said proposed answer is
41 said correct answer utilizing said server computer system;

42 means for prior to executing said interrogative
43 password method, permitting a user to initially supply said
44 question and correct answer pair;

45 means for prohibiting access to said client computer
46 system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password
47 in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said
48 correct answer;

49 means for completing said boot process in response to
50 said client computer system receiving said primary password
51 from said server computer system; and

52 means for encrypting transmissions between said client
53 computer system and said server computer system utilizing an
54 encryption key pair method.